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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 AGRE-00 OES-07 COME-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USINJC, IN

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION

REF: A) NEW DELHI 10634; (B) NEW DELHI 11103

1. WE ARE STILL AWAITING WORD FROM U.S. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR-
MAN KATZ, WHO IS CURRENTLY ON LEAVE, WHETHER OCTOBER 3-4
DATES ARE ACCEPTABLE AND WILL ADVISE SHORTLY.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE WORK PROGRAM, AS EMBASSY IS AWARE,
A.I.D. IS AGREEABLE TO INCLUSION OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE
UNDER THE COMMISSION RUBRIC AND A SEPARATE TELEGRAM HAS
DEALT WITH THIS QUESTION. HOWEVER, OUR UNDERSTANDING WITH
A.I.D. IS THAT THE SUBCOMMISSION WILL REMAIN AN ADVISORY
BODY NOT GET INTO A.I.D. OPERATIONS OR SPECIFIC PROJECTS.
THE ANNUAL MEETINGS WILL THUS PROVIDE A FORUM FOR A SENIOR
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LEVEL REVIEW OF THE TOTALITY OF THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND INDIA. WE SEE THIS AS A BROADENING
OF THE SCOPE OF THE SUBCOMMISSION WHICH HERETOFORE HAS
FOCUSED LARGELY ON TRADE/INVESTMENT ISSUES. (THIS IS
APPARENTLY IN LINE WITH YOUR VIEWS,NEW DELHI 11103). AT
THE SAME TIME, WE RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDE THAT OUR PREVIOUS
EFFORTS TO USE THE SUBCOMMISSION AS A PLATFORM FOR DISCUSS-

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ION OF MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES HAVE NOT WORKED AND

PROPOSED TO DROP THIS IDEA.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE SUGGESTIONS IN YOUR 10634, WE HAVE TWO BASIC COMMENTS. FIRST WE STILL THINK THE AG INPUTS WORKING GROUPS HAS SERVED THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT WAS ESTABLISHED AND SHOULD BE DISBANDED. WE SUGGESTED THIS DURING THE INFORMAL SINGH-ATHERTON MEETING LAST FALL AND HAVE NOT CHANGED OUR MINDS. THE GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1974 TO FACILITATE INDIAN PROCUREMENT OF FERTILIZER FROM THE U.S. AT A TIME OF TIGHT SUPPLY. HAVING SOLVED THIS PROBLEM IT THEN DEVELOPED INTO AN EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL DATA BETWEEN THE INDIANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL FERTILIZER DEVELOPMENT CENTER, AND AID-FINANCED GROUP LOCATED AT THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY. BY THE TIME OF THE THIRD WORKING GROUP MEETING IN MARCH 1977, IFDC AND THE FERTILIZER CORPORATION OF INDIA AGREED ON RESEARCH PROJECTS TO BE CARRIED ON INDEPENDENT OF THE WORKING GROUP. WE REMAIN THEREFORE DUBIOUS ABOUT WHAT THE GROUP WILL DO, AND DO NOT WANT MEETINGS SIMPLY FOR THE SAKE OF MEETINGS.

4. WITH REGARD TO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL, WE THINK THIS IS AN EXCELLENT AREA FOR COMMISSION ACTIVITY. IN FACT THERE ARE ALREADY A HOST OF ONGOING USDA PROJECTS WITH INDIAN COLLABORATION IN TRAIN OR PROPOSED UNDER THE SCIENCE
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AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMISSION. WE SEE NO REASON TO SHIFT AG RESEARCH TO THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION AND PREFER TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THE WORK ALREADY GOING ON UNDER THE S AND T SUBCOMMISSION.

5. MORE GENERALLY, WE DO NOT WANT SPECIFIC AID PROJECTS TO GET ENMESHED IN SUBCOMMISSION MACHINERY. YOU SHOULD MAKE THIS CLEAR TO THE INDIANS. AID PROGRAMS ARE TO BE WORKED OUT IN THE NORMAL FASHION WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND TECHNICAL MINISTRIES WE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ALLOWING THE COMMISSION STRUCTURE TO BECOME A NEW BUREAUCRATIC LAYER.

6. THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IDEA IS A GOOD ONE FOR DISCUSSION AT THE OCTOBER MEETING. WE PREFER TO DECIDE LATER IF WE SHOULD SET UP A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP.

7. ALSO THINK THE OCTOBER MEETING SHOULD HAVE BEFORE IT U.S. AND INDIAN ANALYSES OF TRADE FLOWS DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR, ASSISTANCE PROJECTIONS, ETC. DISCUSSION OF THE SEPARATE U.S. AND INDIAN PAPERS COULD BE A MAIN AGENDA ITEM OF THE MEETING.

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8. WE WILL SHORTLY BE PREPARING AN AGENDA FOR THE SUB-COMMISSION MEETING AND WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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